

**CITY COUNCIL
BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
March 19, 2013**

The Business Meeting of the Monroe City Council was held on March 19, 2013, in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Mayor Robert Zimmerman called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Councilpersons present: Goering, Williams, Kamp, Davis, Gamble, and Hanford.

Councilperson absent: Cudaback

Staff present: Brazel, Feilberg, Warthan, Farrell, Ginnard, Sax, Popelka, and Martinson.

Student Representative Harano was present.

City Attorney Zach Lell was also present.

Mayor Zimmerman noted that there were members from Troop 191, Boy Scouts of America attending.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance, lead by Boy Scout member Hunter.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRESENTATIONS

1. Proclamation: Choose to Include Day/March 20, 2013

Mayor Zimmerman read the proclamation announcing March 20th as *Choose To Include Day*.

Mayor Zimmerman noted that Mr. Brock, who was to present next, was delayed in traffic and that he would move ahead and start with Citizen Comments.

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Lester Siesu, 14751 North Holm Street, Ste 105-156, Monroe, addressed Council regarding people who are walking through his property from the park and the brick factory, and contractors from the school are dumping water.

Mayor Zimmerman stated that staff would look into the matter.

Mr. Andrew Abt, owns and operates Sky River Bakery in Monroe, addressed Council regarding parking in Downtown Monroe. He disagrees with the four-hour parking.

Paula Fortier, 17246 153rd Street, SE, Monroe, and has a business in Monroe. She feels that, since there is no enforcement, it doesn't do any good to have parking limits. She also noted other concerns with parking in the area.

Steve Ahmann, owns Pacific Power Battery at 212 Main Street, addressed Council regarding downtown parking and made suggestions for changes. More parking places of shorter duration allow for more customers to shop their block.

Annique Bennett, director of Chamber of Commerce, 108 E. Main St. #206, Monroe. Thanked Council for the chance to partner on the MusicFest. She also addressed Council regarding parking in Downtown, suggesting that Council work on "Way Finding", which would help people find parking.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRESENTATIONS (Continued)

2. MusicFest Update/Keith Brock (this item was moved down to after "Citizen Comments")

Mr. Brock introduced the Website designed for the MusicFest, showing who will be playing; however, they are working on signing more musicians. He explained the other information that is available on the MusicFest Website, i.e., tickets, food, aerial event map, etc. He stated that the budget is in great shape.

Parks and Recreation Director, Mike Farrell, reported that they are working on draft agreements with various people involved in the festival. They are working on vendors and sponsors and have found ways to save money through collaboration.

Mr. Brock reported that Evergreen Speedway will also be handing out information to people attending the races. They have great grassroots marketing happening in Monroe, which is saving on marketing costs.

Mr. Brock stated that the purpose of the concert is to have people work together to make big things happen. The MusicFest Website will advertise businesses and restaurants in Monroe. He feels that this show will be something people will be talking about.

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilperson Gamble asked that Consent Agenda item #2A (Bills) be pulled from the Consent Agenda.

1. Minutes

A. March 5, 2013 Business Meeting

B. March 12, 2013 Study Session

2. Accounts Payable & Payroll

B. Payroll: Checks #32248 – 32262 (Bank of America) and #32500 – 32545 (Key Bank), in the amount total amount of \$914,169.02

3. East Fremont Street Utility Replacement Project:

A. Authorize Mayor to Sign Right-of-Way Purchase Contracts

The motion was made by Councilperson Goering and seconded by Councilperson Kamp, to approve the Consent Agenda 1A & 1B, 2B, & 3A & 3B. The motion was amended to approved 1A & 1B, 2B, & 3A, as staff wished to pull item #3B (Fremont project) for further discussion. On vote,

Motion carried 6/0.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS PULLED:

3. East Fremont Street Utility Replacement Project:

B. Authorize Solicitation of Bids for Fremont St. Utility Replacement Project

Public Works Director Feilberg reported on the cost to put in the street trees. The "Pro" is that the project would be completed. The "Con" would be the maintenance of the trees and grates, until there are enough businesses to take care of the maintenance.

After discussion, the motion was made by Councilperson Hanford and seconded by Councilperson Gamble, to authorize the solicitation of bids for the Fremont St. Utility replacement project, with trees and grates as optional.

A friendly amendment was made by Councilperson Goering to ensure it includes trees, with grates as optional. After clarification, the friendly amendment was withdrawn.

After further discussion, the motion was on the floor to authorize solicitation of bids, with option. On vote,

Motion carried 6/0.

Councilperson Gamble recused himself from voting on Consent Agenda item #2A, since there is a bill from his employer; he departed Council Chambers at 8:15 p.m.

2. Accounts Payable & Payroll

A. Bills: Checks #83500 – 83564, in the amount of \$939,651.40.

The motion was made by Councilperson Kamp and seconded by Councilperson Davis, to approve Consent Agenda item #2A. On vote,

Motion carried 5/0.

Councilperson Gamble returned to Council Chambers at 8:16 p.m.

Council consensus was to move the downtown parking item up on the agenda, due to people in the audience waiting for that topic discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

2. Discussion: Downtown Parking

Public Works Director Feilberg gave Council a brief review and update on the proposed changes to Downtown Parking.

After discussion, it was determined that this topic would be brought back for further consideration and input from businesses. The Council Transportation Committee would reach out to the businesses, Chamber, and DREAM to discuss options and report back to Council. It was noted that lack of parking enforcement is also an issue.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. Executive Session: Pertaining to Potential Litigation

Mayor Zimmerman explained that there was a need to go into two executive sessions for the purposes of discussing potential litigation with legal Council pursuant to RCW 42.30.110 1(i), as read into the record by City Attorney Lell. The executive session will last approximately 30 minutes, after which Council will take action in open session.

MEETING RECESSED INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION: 8:43 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION WAS EXTENDED

MEETING RECONVENED INTO REGULAR SESSION: 9:55 p.m.

No action was taken by Council after the Executive Sessions.

NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

1. Discuss: Proposed Ethics Code Amendments

Human Resources Manager Warthan gave a brief overview explaining the history of the proposed change that would correct a previous administrative error.

City Attorney Lell clarified that this is a housekeeping amendment to correct an error made in a past amendment. This amendment corrects that error.

The motion was made by Councilperson Kamp and seconded by Councilperson Hanford, to extend the meeting past 10 p.m.

Mayor Zimmerman asked City Attorney Lell if there would be an option available to Council to cover the City regarding ethical conduct.

City Attorney Lell responded that, at the minimum, City officers are still governed by the RCWs. Part of the existing ethics ordinance was enacted by initiative action; he would need to determine what falls in the scope of the initiative. He clarified that Council would like him to work on an ordinance that preserves the Ethics Board and complaint process; but would fall back on state law otherwise.

He would include the initiative language in the modified ordinance.

After further discussion and comments, it was determined that the City Attorney would bring a recommendation back to Council, including using State Law.

NEW BUSINESS #2 (DOWNTOWN PARKING) WAS MOVED UP ON THE AGENDA, TO ACCOMMODATE THE CITIZENS IN THE AUDIENCE WAITING FOR THIS TOPIC.

3. Approve Planning Commission Work Program (Modify Height Limitations)

Planning and Permit Manager Popelka gave a brief overview of the Planning Commission's Work Program, explaining the key items that will their focus.

City Administrator Brazel explained that it would be important to also look at height restrictions in the area of the City Hall campus, to ensure the needed building height, should the City partner with the Monroe School District and Everett Community College to all be housed in one building.

After discussion, the motion was made by Councilperson Goering and seconded by Councilperson Hanford, to approve the Planning Commission Work Program for 2013, including the review of height restrictions, as recommended by City Administrator Brazel.

After further discussion and clarification, the motion was amended to state that the height restrictions review would be limited to the Public Service zoning area. On vote,

Motion carried 6/0.

Manager Popelka also noted two other items coming back to Council soon.

FINAL ACTION

1. Resolution Adopting Utility Billing Policies

This item was rescheduled to next week.

2. Approve Council Agenda and Meeting Format Changes

City Administrator Brazel gave a brief overview explaining the proposed changes.

He turned the meeting over to Councilperson Davis, the Council Legislative Affairs Committee Chair, for further explanation.

After discussion, the motion was made by Councilperson Hanford and seconded by Councilperson Goering, to

- Amend the Council Rules of Procedure removing Section 3.1.3.
- Amend the Council Rules of Procedure amending Section 3.1.1.
- Amend the Council Rules of Procedure removing Section 3.1.2.
- Approve the new draft Agenda format.

A friendly amendment was made by Councilperson Williams to remove Section 3.1.1 from the vote. After discussion, Councilpersons Hanford amended his motion and Goering seconded, to remove Section 3.1.1 from the vote. On vote,

Motion carried 6/0.

City Administrator Brazel reported that some concerns have been expressed about communication with Council, and stated that it would be discussed in the next Legislative Affairs Committee meeting.

COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS

Councilperson Kamp reported that he was asked by DREAM to be on the Father's Day planning committee. He also gave an updated reported on the Mexican Rodeo.

Councilperson Davis reported on the Legislative Affairs Committee meeting and that a social media policy for the City's would be based on another city's plan.

Councilperson Gamble confirmed that the Council Finance committee meeting would be held on April 2nd.

Mayor Zimmerman reported that he would like some focus on the Rotary Field and Downtown parking to be on public restrooms. He would like to bring this back as a discussion item on March 26th. Staff had identified a funding source for the Rotary Field for \$50,000.

Parks & Recreation Director Farrell offered to take Councilmembers on a tour of the Rotary Field facility.

Human Resources Manager Warthan gave an update regarding the IT vendor and proposed project. He confirmed that everything is going well with them.

Public Works Director Feilberg reported that there was now a defibrillator located in the City Hall lobby.

Councilperson Williams stated that he would be out March 26th.

MAYOR/ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF REPORTS

1. Draft Agenda/March 26, 2013 Study Session

City Administrator Brazel presented the draft agenda for March 26, 2013.

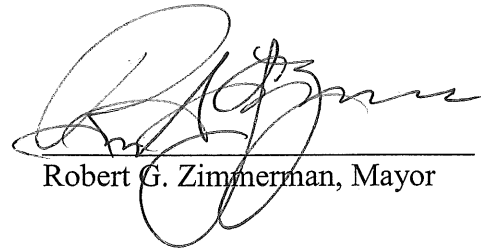
The social media topic was moved to April 16th, after the Legislative Affairs Committee has had a chance to meet and discuss this topic.

ADJOURNMENT


There being no further business, the motion was made by Hanford and seconded by Goering, to adjourn the meeting. On vote,

Motion carried 6/0.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 11:06 p.m.



Robert G. Zimmerman, Mayor



Eadye Martinson, Deputy City Clerk

